

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-19. (Previously Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Compacted~~ Carbon black pellets, prepared from uncompact carbon black powder, having a relative color intensity, based on the uncompact carbon black powder, of greater than 100% which have been compacted two or more times with different compressive forces and/or wherein the pellets comprise one or more binders and/or dispersants in a total quantity of between 10 to 25 wt.%, based on the weight of the pellets.

*New*

21. (Currently Amended) The pellets of Claim 20 wherein the pellets have an average particle size of 0.3 to 2 mm and a quotient of ~~pycnometric~~ pycnometric density and bulk density between 3.0 and 10.

22. (Currently Cancelled).

*C* 23. (Previously Added) The pellets of Claim ~~22~~ wherein the binder comprises a liquid polyol, polyether, polyester, oil, water or an aqueous solution of a polymeric salt or molasses.

24. (Previously Added) The pellets of Claim ~~22~~ wherein the dispersant comprises a lignin sulfonate or a naphthalene/formaldehyde condensation product.

*New →* 25. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of carbon black pellets which comprises compacting carbon black two or more times with different compressive forces in the presence of an auxiliary substance in a total quantity of between 10 to 25 wt.%, based on the weight of the pellets and comminuting the compacted carbon black to pellets having an average particle size of 0.3 to 2 mm and a quotient of ~~pycnometric~~ pycnometric density and bulk density between 3.0 and 10.

26. (Currently Cancelled).

27. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 25 comprising performing the compaction two or more times at different compressive forces. *447*

28. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 25 comprising using compression forces of between 1 and 100 kN/cm.

29. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 25 comprising performing the compaction by screws, rollers, die presses or extruders.

30. (Currently Deleted).

*C* 31. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 30, wherein the binder comprises a liquid polyol, polyether, polyester, oil, water or an aqueous solution of a polymeric salt or molasses.

32. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 30 wherein the dispersant comprises a lignin sulfonate and a naphthalene/formaldehyde condensation product.

33. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 25 comprising coating the resulting pellets with wax, polyether, polyolefin or polyvinyl alcohol.

34. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 33 comprising adding a preservative and/or fragrance to the wax, polyether, polyolefin or polyvinyl alcohol.

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